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2152



PATENT
CUSTOMER NUMBER 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08098.0013

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Inventors: Dennis MENDIOLA et al) Group Art Unit: 2152
)
Serial No.: 09/928,433) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
)
Filed: August 14, 2001)
)
For: INSTANT MESSAGING SYSTEM)
AND METHOD FOR REMOTE)
NETWORKS USING A)
SEQUENTIAL MESSAGE)
HANDSHAKING PROTOCOL)

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application. Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: October 9, 2001

By: 

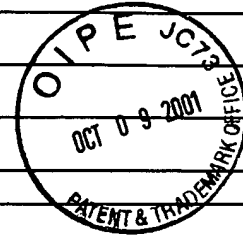
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

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|------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Atty. Docket No. | 8098-0013-00 | Serial No. | 09/928,433 |
| Applicant | Dennis MENDIOLA et al. | | |
| Filing Date | August 14, 2001 | Group: | 2152 |



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Issue Date | Name | Class | Sub Class | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
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| | 2001 0003203 A1 | | Mache | | | 11/30/00 |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Document Number | Publication Date | Country | Class | Sub Class | Translation Yes or No |
|-----------------|------------------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------------------|
| EP 0 898 431 A1 | 2/24/99 | | | | |
| WO 00 16209 | 3/23/00 | | | | |
| WO 99 48011 | 9/23/99 | | | | |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| | U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/846,249, INSTANT MESSAGING ACCOUNT SYSTEM, Filed May 2, 2001 (including Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently therewith) |
| | U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/846,376, METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TRACKING THE ONLINE STATUS OF ACTIVE USERS OF AN INTERNET-BASED INSTANT MESSAGING SYSTEM, Filed May 2, 2001 (including Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently therewith) |
| | U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/846,377, METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INVITING AND CREATING ACCOUNTS FOR PROSPECTIVE USES OF AN INSTANT MESSAGING SYSTEM, Filed May 2, 2001 (including Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently therewith) |
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| Examiner | Date Considered |
| *Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |
| Form PTO 1449 | Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce |